Foreign debt

†261. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of increase in foreign debt during the last two years upto December, 2003 and the total foreign debt at present and to what extent it is more as compared to that in 1999 and 2000.

(b) the total international assets of banks in the country by 2003 and to what extent they have increased or decreased as compared to that in 1999-2000; and

(c) the market borrowings of Central Government by June, 2004 and to what extent they are less as compared to those in the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The external debt of the country increased by 6.5 per cent and 1.2 per cent, respectively during the last two years up to December, 2003 in rupee terms. In US dollar terms, the corresponding increases were 6.9 per cent and 6.5 per cent, respectively. The total foreign debt at present and increase in debt as compared to that in March, 2000 and March, 1999 are as follows:

External Debt	Rupees crores	US $ million
1. As at end-March, 1999	411,297	96,886
2. As at end-March, 2000	428,550	98,263
3. As at end-March, 2004	489,168	112,593
4. Increase between 1999 and 2004 (3-1)	77,871	15,707
5. Increase between 2000 and 2004 (3-2)	60,618	14,330

(b) Data on international assets and liabilities of banks in India are available from March, 2001. The international assets of banks in the country as at end-March, 2003 and change in the assets as compared to that at end-March, 2001 are given below:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

International assets of banks in India (Outstanding)	Rupee crore	US $ million
1. As at end-March 2001	83,233	17,845
2. As at end-March 2003	104,574	22,016
3. Increase between 2001 and 2003 (2-1)	21,341	4,171

(c) As per the latest data available, as at the end of March, 2004, the market loans of the Central Government at Rs. 704,902.01 crore were higher by Rs. 85,796.55 crore as compared to Rs. 619,105.46 crore as on March 31, 2003.

Waiver of Central loans to States

262. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether interest accrued on loans accounts for more than 10 per cent of the total State Government's expenditure ;

(b) if so, the details as on date, State-wise, category-wise;

(c) whether a concept paper from the Planning Commission suggests the waiver of all Central loans granted to the State;

(d) whether Government would implement the above concept paper;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the present status of Central loans granted to States, State-wise and category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, for all States except three States of Manipur, Meghalaya and Sikkim. State-wise details are at column 3 to 5 of Annexed Statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

(g) Details are at column 6-8 of Annexed Statement.